

## **Issue Summary: HB 569 - Landfill**

### **Problem Statement:**

Current law prohibits the disposal of yard trash in Class I landfills, and local governments now arrange for a separate collection of yard trash from residences and businesses, often requiring a significant expenditure of public funds. The ban on disposing yard trash in Class I landfills also has the effect of limiting the production of landfill gas, and thus the production of alternative fuel at these facilities.

### **Background:**

The bill allows the disposal of yard trash in Class I landfills that have obtained a minor permit modification and are designed to utilize an active gas collection system that provides or arranges for the beneficial use of the landfill gas collected.

A Class I landfill may also accept yard trash for mulching and as a cover for municipal solid waste disposed at the landfill. The Department of Environmental Protection is required to develop and adopt a methodology to award recycling credits for the use or disposal of yard trash at Class I landfills that have a gas collection system and make beneficial use of the gas. Miami-Dade County is exempt from the provisions of this bill as a result of operating under a home rule charter authorized in 1956 in a statewide referendum. The bill provides the legislative intent that the disposal of yard trash in Class I landfills is not intended to have a material impact on current operations at existing waste-to-energy or biomass facilities.

### **Governor's Veto:**

The Governor's veto message expressed concern regarding the lack of Florida-specific data to support a conclusion that the proposed practice would result in a net reduction in greenhouse gasses or a savings to consumers. The Governor also expressed the concern that the practice allowed in the bill will be a step backward in our recycling efforts.

### **Effect of the Override:**

Combined collection with household waste can allow more efficient and less costly collection and possibly fewer waste-hauling trucks on the road. This, in turn, may result in a cost savings for citizens. Decreased vehicle traffic would actually reduce energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well. Allowing these landfills to accept yard trash will increase the amount of landfill gas generated, resulting in greater efficiency and more alternative fuel produced.